



In the Garden of Our Dreams: Memoirs of Our Marriage

By Shirlee Taylor Haizlip

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Shirlee Taylor Haizlip, bestselling author of **The Sweeter the Juice**, and her husband, Harold C. Haizlip describe, with unwavering commitment to each other, their families, and their race, what hard work, good luck, and most important, unshakable love can accomplish.

Told in their alternating voices, **In the Garden of Our Dreams** is a portrait of their nearly forty-year love affair. Born into a generation reared in segregation, Harold, the Southerner, and Shirlee, the Northerner, strove not only to marry their individual differences in reaching for common happiness, but also joined the larger struggle of their generation to achieve integration and racial equality. In this intimate and moving memoir, the couple reflects on how they defined themselves as African Americans during some of the most important years in America's struggle with issues of race, class, and equality. Uplifting and romantic, **In the Garden of Our Dreams** gives all couples hope in this time of increasing cynicism about the value of marriage and the effect each individual can have in the larger struggle against society's ills.

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In the Garden of Our Dreams: Memoirs of Our Marriage By Shirlee Taylor Haizlip Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

She was an African American princess, raised in a racially mixed Connecticut neighborhood and taught by her father "to go after whatever I thought I could do." He came from a poor section of Washington, D.C., and supported his brilliant academic career with scholarships and part-time jobs. But when they met in 1957, their shared aspirations to "uplift the race" and force white America to accept them on their own terms drew them together. Married in 1959, the Haizlips held various socially conscious jobs while experiencing the tumult of the 1960s from an unusual vantage point; when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Shirlee Haizlip notes, "I stopped wearing white gloves." They lived in a privileged, integrated world but never wavered in their commitment to help less fortunate black people. And their joint memoir sketches the evolution of both a marriage between very different personalities and the racial landscape in America. Pungent political awareness leavens the sentimentality of the couple's family portrait, and alternating first-person narratives give the story a "he said, she said" completeness, doing justice to two powerful individuals who quarreled but maintained an unshakeable bond. --*Wendy Smith*

From Library Journal

Shirlee Taylor Haizlip, author of *The Sweeter the Juice* (LJ 1/94), a family memoir about her family's mixed racial heritage, and Harold Haizlip, an educator and administrator, have written the story of their marriage. Engaging as a love story, it is also intellectually satisfying as a social history of the Fifties to the Nineties. The Haizlips met on a blind date at Harvard and enjoyed the early years of their marriage in style as part of the arty New York scene, but they arrived in the Eighties unemployed with two daughters. Fierce determination, resourcefulness, and belief in each other bring them to easier times by the book's end. Following them from New York to the Virgin Islands to New Haven to Los Angeles, we hear the story of their life passages and goals from both points of view?they take turns telling it. Marriage memoirs are rare; Madeleine L'Engle's *Two-Part Invention* (LJ 11/15/88) comes to mind, but it is written in just one voice. Inspiring in this age of divorce, and highly recommended for all libraries.?Barbara O'Hara, Free Lib. of Philadelphia
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From [Booklist](#)

Penned by best-selling author Shirlee Taylor Haizlip and her husband, Harold C. Haizlip, this unique dual biography allows readers a privileged glimpse into the marriage of one of America's most prominent and influential African American couples. Told in the alternating voices of the two authors, this entrancing narrative recounts the courtship of Shirlee, a self-assured Wellesley undergrad, and Harold, a classics scholar and a Harvard graduate student. After their union in 1959, the Haizlips embarked on a remarkable marital partnership that encompassed children, careers, public service, and the seemingly eternal struggle for recognition and racial equality. During the course of their extraordinary odyssey, they endured a wide range of personal and professional triumphs and tragedies, all of which they share in warm and intimate tones with the reader. A tender love story as well as a compelling overview of the upper-and middle-class African American experience in the late twentieth century. *Margaret Flanagan*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hattie Jasso:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this In the Garden of Our Dreams: Memoirs of Our Marriage.

Adrienne McGinnis:

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Phyllis Kelly:

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Walter Dion:

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